

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

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FM AMEMBASSY TAIPEI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6828
INFO AMEMBASSY SEOUL PRIORITY

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AMEMBASSY SEOUL PLEASE PASS STELLA FOR KENNEDY

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: TECH, TW
SUBJECT: VISIT OF NRC COMMISSIONER KENNEDY (MARCH 10-24, 1978)

REF: (A) STATE 067848; (B) TAIPEI 1604
(C) TAIPEI 1455, (D) STATE 058422

1. USNRC COMMISSIONER KENNEDY AND PARTY DEPARTED TAIPEI FOR SEOUL AS SCHEDULED REFTEL B, AFTER THREE DAYS DISCUSSION OF NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION, SAFETY, ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND OTHER REGULATORY ISSUES WITH LOCAL ROC OFFICIALS. COMMISSIONER KENNEDY AND HIS PARTY WERE WELL RECEIVED BY OFFICIALS OF THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS (MOFA) THE ATOMIC ENERGY COUNCIL (AEC) AND TAIPower, AND ON 20 MARCH 1978 HE AND ROC REPRESENTATIVE SIGNED THE MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION (MEMCON) OUTLINED IN REFTEL D.

2. ON 20 MARCH, COMMISSIONER KENNEDY AND HIS PARTY CALLED ON MOFA VICE MINISTER FREDERICK CHIEN TO EXPLAIN RECENT NON-PROLIFERATION LEGISLATION AND THE POSITION OF THE CURRENT ADMINISTRATION ON THIS ISSUE. AMBASSADOR
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UNGER ACCOMPANIED. CHIEN STATED THAT THE ROC UNDERSTANDS THE U.S. CONCERN OVER NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION AND WILL DO IT'S BEST TO MEET ALL OF PRESIDENT CARTER'S CRITERIA ON THIS ISSUE. HE MENTIONED THAT HIS GOVERNMENT WAS THE FIRST TO PUBLICALLY ENDORSE THE U.S. NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION POSITION WHEN IT WAS ANNOUNCED "LAST YEAR," THAT THIS POSITION IS SENSIBLE AND LOGICAL

AND THAT THE GROC WOULD DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO COOPERATE. CHIEN STATED THAT WHILE THE ROC HAD ORIGINALLY GIVEN THOUGHT TO NUCLEAR SPENT FUEL REPROCESSING AS A SOURCE OF FUEL SUPPLIES, THEY HAD ACCEPTED THE U.S. POSITION ON THIS AND NOW SIMPLY SUPPORTED THE CONCEPT OF AN EVENTUAL INTERNATIONALLY CONTROLLED REGIONAL SPENT FUEL REPROCESSING FACILITY IN ASIA IN WHICH THEY AND OTHERS COULD PARTICIPATE. CHIEN REITERATED A PREVIOUS OFFER FOR U.S. SCIENTISTS TO COME TO THE ROC TO WORK SIDE BY SIDE WITH THEM IN THEIR NUCLEAR PROGRAM AND INDICATED THE PREMIER'S CONTINUING INTEREST IN THIS.

3. LATE AFTERNOON OF 20 MARCH, COMMISSIONER KENNEDY AND HIS PARTY MET WITH OFFICIALS OF THE ROC AEC, TAIPOWER, NATIONAL TSING HUA UNIVERSITY AND THE INSTITUTE OF NUCLEAR ENERGY RESEARCH. AFTER AN INTRODUCTION BY AEC CHAIRMAN CHIEN SHIH-LIANG, WHO PLEDGED PEACEFUL DEVELOPMENT OF NUCLEAR POWER AND MUTUAL COOPERATION IN THE EXCHANGE OF IDEAS IN THIS FIELD, COMMISSIONER KENNEDY READ THE TEXT OF REFTEL D MEMCON TO ALL PRESENT. REPRESENTATIVES OF EACH OF THE ROC ORGANIZATIONS PRESENT WERE ENTHUSIASTIC IN THEIR SUPPORT OF THE PROPOSAL OUTLINED AND THE MEMCON WAS SIGNED FORTHWITH BY CHAIRMAN CHIEN AND THE COMMISSIONER.

4. ON 21 MARCH, THE COMMISSIONER AND HIS PARTY TOURED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THE CHIN SHAN NUCLEAR POWER SITE AND ENGAGED IN FURTHER DISCUSSIONS WITH AEC AND TAIPOWER OFFICIALS.

5. COMMISSIONER KENNEDY'S 22 MARCH DEPARTURE STATEMENT FOLLOWS: QUOTE: I'VE BEEN IN TAIPEI FOR THE PAST TWO DAYS MEETING WITH DR. CHIEN SHIH-LING, CHAIRMAN OF THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA ATOMIC ENERGY COUNCIL, MEMBERS OF HIS STAFF AND OFFICERS OF THE AMERICAN EMBASSY TO DISCUSS NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION PROBLEMS AS WELL AS THE SAFETY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION ASPECTS OF THE CURRENT NUCLEAR PROGRAM OF THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA, INCLUDING THE START-UP OF ITS POWER REACTORS AND THE ORGANIZATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF ITS REGULATORY ACTIVITIES. ON MONDAY DR. CHIEN AND I SIGNED A MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION COVERING SUCH ONGOING PROJECTS, AS THE TRAINING OF INSPECTORS AND THE EXCHANGE OF REPORTS. SUCH EXCHANGES OF INFORMATION AND TECHNOLOGY ARE TO BE LIMITED TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF A NUCLEAR SAFETY REGULATORY PROGRAM. ON TUESDAY I VISITED THE CHIN SHAN NUCLEAR POWER SITE WHERE I WITNESSED THE OPERATION OF REACTOR NUMBER ONE. I'VE BEEN IMPRESSED WITH THE HOSPITALITY I'VE

RECEIVED HERE, AND HAVE HAD THE PLEASURE OF ENJOYING
SEVERAL CHINESE DINNERS AND TOURING YOUR PALACE MUSEUM.
END QUOTE. THIS STATEMENT WAS GIVEN TO THE PRESS BUT
THERE WERE NO QUESTIONS.
UNGER

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